(b) if so, in what way the usual complaints of Indian migrants, who, till lately were sending 50 per cent of our remittances, being promptly attended;

(c) the number of qualified, skilled and semi-skilled persons, who had to migrate to India since June, 2008 due to global recessionary trends; and

(d) whether they face any problems regarding receiving their full and final dues from the foreign employer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (d) Information is being collected by the concerned Ministry (Ministry of Overseas Indian Affair) and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Assurance over racial attacks

27. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attacks against Indian students in Australia continue unabated in spite of assurance given that action would be taken by Australian Government;

(b) if so, whether Australian Government has admitted that some attacks were racist;

(c) if so, whether in spite of responding positively, no serious action has been taken by the Australian Government on our request;

(d) the total students affected so far and whether there are reports of racial attacks in Canada also;

(e) the latest position in this regard; and

(f) whether Australia has agreed to take steps against culprits who attacked Indians?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Some incidents of attacks on Indian students are still being reported.

(b) In Victoria, where most of the recent attacks have taken place, Premier John Brumby announced during Question Time in the State Parliament on 02 June, 2009 that his Government condemned racially motivated crimes in the strongest possible terms and will do everything in its power to track down the perpetrators of these cowardly acts and bring them to justice as well. He also announced that his Government proposes to amend the Sentencing Act to enable judges to take into account hatred for or prejudice against a particular group of people while sentencing persons found guilty.

(c) It has been conveyed by the Australian Government, that it has taken/is taking a series of steps to check such attacks.

(d) and (e) Total number of confirmed cases of attacks on Indians including students since 23 May, 2009 is 81. There has been no report of attacks on Indian students in Canada.

(f) Yes, Sir. In some cases arrests have been made and charges laid against the offenders. It has been impressed upon the Australian authorities that it should be ensured that police takes swift and stern action on such complaints.

Indians in jails of Pakistan

28. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:
SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of Indians detained in Pakistan's jails till date;

(b) the number of Indians who have completed their imprisonment period but still lodged in jails of Pakistan as on date;

(c) whether the new Government would take any effective steps to get such Indians released from there;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) As per the information available there are 221 prisoners and 556 fishermen in jails in Pakistan.

(b) In the absence of consular access to many prisoners it is not possible to determine the details of sentences awarded.

(c) to (e) Government has been consistently taking up with the Government of Pakistan, including at the highest level, the issue of Indians in custody in Pakistan.

Indian students in foreign countries

†29. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that news reports of attacks on Indian students in foreign countries has come to the notice of Government;

(b) if so, the countries from where news of such incidents has been received;

(c) the number of incidents of attacks on students reported to Government during years 2007, 2008 and the past months of 2009; and

(d) the steps taken by Government so far to check these incidents?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Details are being collected and would be placed on the table of the House.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.